

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A device for use by an individual comprising:

first means for manually inputting a series of words
in the form of a code;

second means for manually inputting an action to be
performed by the device;

third means for manually inputting a preference; and

fourth means for manually inputting communication
instructions.

2. A device according to claim 1, wherein said first
means, said second means, said third means, and said fourth
means comprises depressable keys.

3. A device according to claim 1, wherein:

said device comprises a cane;

said first means comprises a depressable self-expression key incorporated into said cane;

said second means comprises a depressable action key incorporated into said cane;

said third means comprises a depressable selection preference key incorporated into said cane; and

said fourth means comprises a depressable communication key incorporated into said cane.

4. A device according to claim 3, further comprising a series of rings disposed on a surface of said cane between said keys to identify said keys.

5. A device according to claim 4, wherein each of said rings has at least one elevated portion to identify an adjacent one of said keys.

6. A device according to claim 1, wherein said device is attached to a cane.

7. A device according to claim 2, further comprising a mobile phone segment incorporated into said device and actuated by at least one of said keys.

8. A device according to claim 2, further comprising an on/off switch for actuating said device.

9. A device according to claim 2, further comprising an internal processor and a memory associated with said processor.

10. A device according to claim 9, further comprising said processor being programmed to facilitate communication with another individual.

11. A device according to claim 10, wherein said processor is programmed to have a text to speech module and a speech recognition module.

12. A device according to claim 11, further comprising a speaker within said device for emitting oral communications to a hearing person and said speaker being in communication with said processor.

13. A device according to claim 11, further comprising a microphone/receiver for receiving sounds in communication with said processor.

14. A device according to claim 9, wherein said processor is programmed so that depressing any two of said keys triggers an emergency call.

15. A device according to claim 9, wherein said processor is programmed to receive a message from a user in code form and to convert said message into a form which can be heard by a hearing person.

16. A device according to claim 9, wherein said processor is programmed to receive an oral communication from another individual and to convert said oral communication into a coded format for transmission to a user of said device.

17. A device according to claim 9, wherein said processor is programmed to perform search and guide functions.

18. A device according to claim 17, wherein said processor is programmed to send signals to a user of said device which detail movement and angle directions.

19. A device according to claim 18, wherein said processor is programmed to transmit said movement and angle direction to said user in the form of a code.

20. A device according to claim 17, wherein said processor is programmed to receive input from a user about a place being sought.

21. A device according to claim 17, wherein said processor is programmed to receive input from a user about an object of interest to said user.

22. A device according to claim 9, wherein said processor is programmed to facilitate communication between said device and another device being used by another person.

23. A device according to claim 22, wherein said processor is programmed to facilitate said communication over a telephone line.

24. A device according to claim 9, wherein said processor is programmed to send emergency information to a user.

25. A device according to claim 24, wherein said processor is programmed to send emergency information received from at least one of a fire alarm, a burglar alarm, and an object theft alarm.

26. A device according to claim 9, wherein said processor is programmed to receive an emergency vehicle alert and for converting said received alert into a coded message to be transmitted to a user of said device.

27. A device according to claim 26, further comprising an emergency vehicle alert system having a RF receiver for capturing a first signal generated by an emergency vehicle and said processor being programmed to receive a second signal generated by said emergency vehicle alert system.

28. A device according to claim 2, further comprising a vibration element for allowing said handicapped person to receive messages in a code form.

29. A system for allowing a hearing impaired and/or a blind person to enjoy a television program comprising:

input means for receiving information about an oral presentation being made as part of said television program; and

means associated with said input means for transmitting a signal to at least one body part of said person representative of words being spoken as part of said oral presentation.

30. A system according to claim 29, wherein said transmission means comprises means for transmitting an electric current to said at least one body part.

31. A system according to claim 29, wherein said transmission means comprises means for transmitting a vibration to said at least one body part.

32. A system according to claim 29, wherein said transmission means comprises means for transmitting heat to said at least one body part.

33. A system according to claim 29, wherein said transmission means comprises means for transmitting said

signal to a front portion and a back portion of said at least one body part.

34. A system according to claim 29, wherein said transmission means comprises means for transmitting nibble information to said at least one body part.

35. A system according to claim 34, wherein said nibble transmitting means transmits said nibble information to both hands of said person.

36. A system according to claim 29, wherein said transmission means comprises means for transmitting said signal in Braille form.

37. A system according to claim 29, further comprising means for shutting off a visual portion of said television program.

38. A system according to claim 29, further comprising means for transmitting odors to said person.

39. A system according to claim 29, further comprising means for allowing said person to summon emergency aid.

40. A system according to claim 29, wherein said transmission means transmits said signal in the form of Morse code.